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GP 3721
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REGISTERED TO PRACTICE BEFORE
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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June 19, 2002

Serial Number: 10/022,930
Filed: 18 December 2001
Applicant: William S. Lerner
Title: Thermal preservation insert for food storage
container
Group Art Unit: 3727

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JUN 27 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Below are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent No. 3,406,532 to Rownd et al. discloses food and beverage containers having integral compartments containing a freezable liquid.

U.S. Patent 3,830,676 to Halseth discloses a refrigerative dish having a compartment for ice.

U.S. Patent 3,830,676 to Elkins discloses a process of making a contoured thermal device in

which liquid conducting passageways are formed between superposed sheets of flexible material.

U.S. Patent 4,065,336 to Conklin discloses a method of making a wall section for a thermal enclosure including a cavity for a material for adding or removing heat.

U.S. Patent 4,523,433 to Takahashi et al. discloses a cold storage body comprising a hermetically sealed vessel made of aluminum alloy in which a cold storage medium in an appropriate amount is enclosed with a space remaining within the vessel filled with a compressed inert gas.

U.S. Patent 5,390,797 to Smalley et al. discloses a food-carrying case including a thermal bottle, containing cold thermally active material, mounted within the lid to maintain the associated food items at a desired temperature.

U.S. 5,701,757 to Heverly discloses a portable refrigerator food container including an outer pan formed to receive a frozen gel pack on the bottom surface.

None of these prior patents alone or taken in combination discloses a freezer insert, a warmer insert or a freezer/warmer insert designed for use inside plastic food containers sold under brand names such as Ziplock, Glad and Tupperware, wherein the insert is a flat disk and contains known gels or fluids useful for portable cooling or warming and the insert also can rest on the walls of the container if those walls slop outward in the direction of the opening. The inserts divide the container vertically into cool, extra cool or hot compartments for different types of food. The disk can be round, square or of other shape. The inserts are stackable, for example in the freezer.

Respectfully,



Steven Horowitz, Reg. No. 31,768

Enclosures



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on the 18 day of June, 2002, in connection with patent application no. 10/022,930 for an invention entitled Thermal preservation insert for food storage container,

I deposited : (i) 2 pages of an **Information Disclosure Statement** (ii) form PTO-1449 (iii) copies of prior art references (iv) this Certificate of Mailing and (v) an Acknowledgment postcard

with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the address below:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dated: 18 June, 2002

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